



BUSINESS BUZZ

Law Firm To Open New Office

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Courier Staff

The Duval Hansen Witt & Morley, P.C. law firm is coming to Heber. In addition to their two successful offices in American Fork and Pleasant Grove, they plan to lease office space in a building just north of the park near the UVSC extension offices on Main Street, said Gordon Duval, one of the firm's lawyers.

This general practice firm has nine attorneys with experience in a variety of different fields, including bankruptcy, domestic and family, construction, and wills and estate, to name a few, said Duval.

The firm, formerly known as Harding and Associates, has been around for about 18 years. It changed its name when both Hardings became judges in Wasatch County.

Duval himself has been practicing law since 1986. He specializes in state and local government law. He was the former assistant county attorney in Alaska, and has also worked in Oregon. He is a licensed realtor and has worked for the State Health Department. He has been involved in the Wild Mare and Canyon Meadows Homeowners Associations lawsuits and has recently been elected as a board member of the Timber Lakes Property Owners Association.

"I spend a lot of time traveling up to Heber," said Duval. "It will be nice to have an office there."

But Duval's not the only one who has felt the need for a local office. Brian Haws, who specializes in real estate and land, has also been heavily involved in litigation in Wasatch County. He is working with Duval on the Canyon Meadows and Wild Mare cases and spends a lot of time in Heber.

In fact, all the attorneys have done work up there, said Duval. Their firm has worked on a variety of cases, including wills and estate, personal injury, real estate, business and divorce.

According to Duval, the firm decided to open an office here because of

their growing number of clients. But why have so many people chosen a firm based in Pleasant Grove to do work for them?

Apparently some of the firm's attorneys have family that either owns property or lives in Wasatch County. As they have sought the firm for advice, other peo-

ple the county government is one reason why people are seeking legal advice. "People are wanting laws to be enforced uniformly," he said.

And Duval has the experience and interest to help them achieve that and more. As a new board member for Timber Lakes, Duval hopes to be able to improve the way decisions are made for the area. He feels that the best government is the one closest to the people.

There are five Special Service Districts that affect Timber Lakes, but none of those that make the decisions are

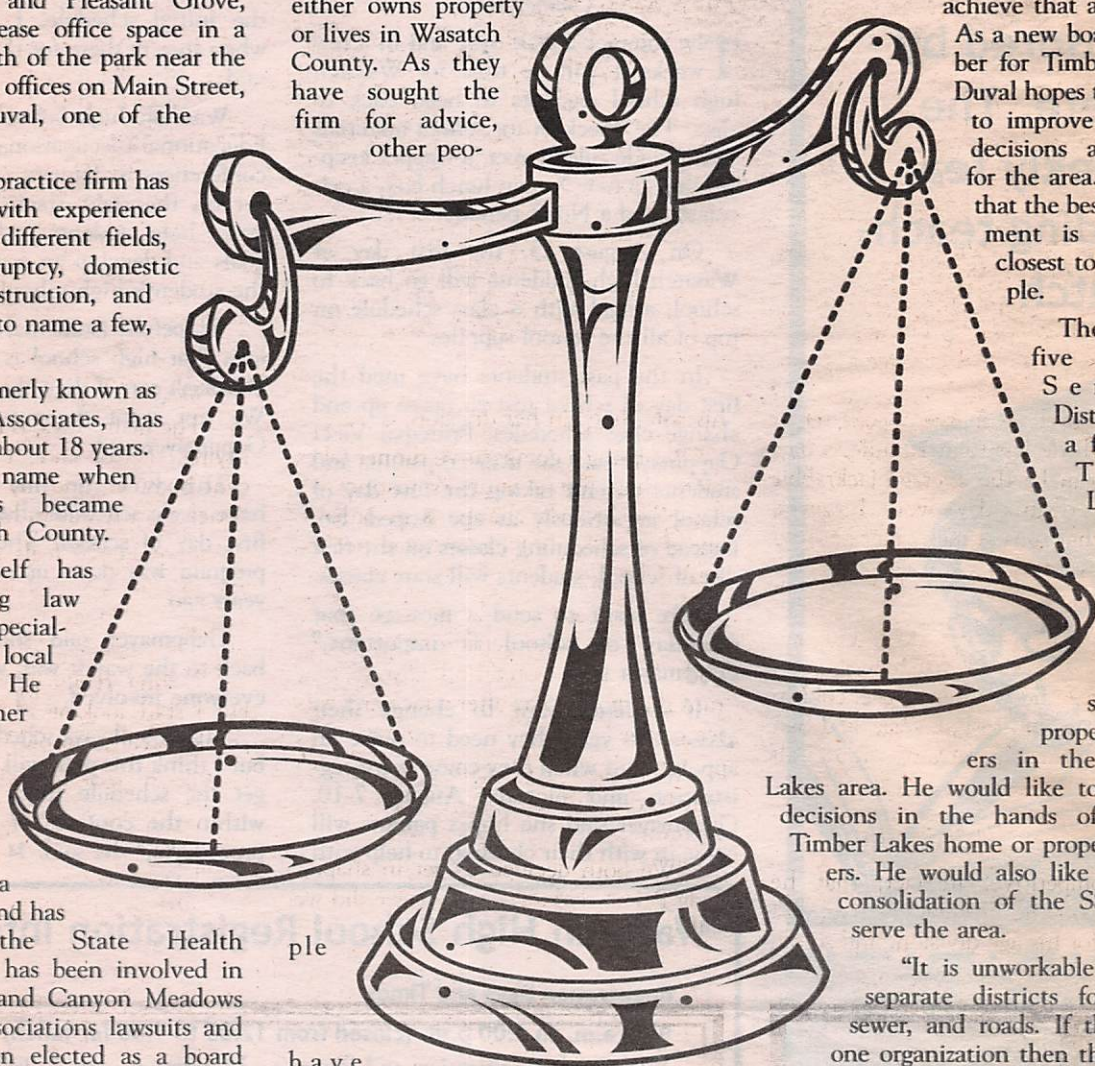
property owners in the Timber Lakes area. He would like to see the decisions in the hands of elected Timber Lakes home or property owners. He would also like to see a consolidation of the SSDs that serve the area.

"It is unworkable to have separate districts for water, sewer, and roads. If they were one organization then they could coordinate their efforts," said Duval. "Currently there is not global planning because they are separate. The ways things are now it is like having a number of different vehicles going different directions down the same road—they keep crashing into each other."

Another issue that Duval would like to discuss with the board is the new landslide ordinance that the county has recently proposed. The current draft of this law requires all who want to build to purchase landslide insurance that names the county as an insurer.

Having the county on the insurance would make things more complicated and time-consuming than they need to be, according to Duval.

The new address is 32 W. 200 S. in Heber, and they can be reached by phone



ple have become familiar with its lawyers. Word of mouth referrals and recommendations have naturally come as more and more people like what they see.

The growing clientele and the growth the county is facing overall, has made it necessary to open a local office.

"We have a growing clientele in Heber," said Duval. "It will be easier to serve them with a local office. Besides, Wasatch County is a growing area."

According to Duval, with growth comes change and a need for legal advice. There are more real estate contracts, more businesses, more people, more divorces. As the population increases so does the demand for legal advice, he said.

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